

NOW SERVING FELONIES

AN ILLUSTRATED ZINE FROM
THE CONFINES
OF PRISON

A BENEFIT ZINE FOR IAN DEBEER, DANIEL MONTANO, AND ABC PITTSBURGH

PREFACE

ON JULY 24, 2008, 22 YEAR OLD DANIEL JOSEPH MONTANO WAS SENTENCED TO AN EGREGIOUS 2 1/2 TO 5 YEARS IN STATE PRISON, REQUIRED TO PAY OVER \$230,000 IN RESTITUTION, AND SPEND 5 YEARS PROBATION FOR WRITING GRAFFITI. AT THAT TIME, HE HAD ALREADY BEEN INCARCERATED FOR 6 MONTHS AWAITING TRIAL.

ON SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2010, 23 YEAR OLD IAN DEBEER WAS SENTENCED TO 1-3 YEARS IN A STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THE CRIME OF WRITING GRAFFITI. HE PLEAD GUILTY TO 73 COUNTS OF "CRIMINAL MISCHIEF" AND 1 COUNT OF "POSSESSION OF AN INSTRUMENT OF CRIME WITH INTENT TO EMPLOY IT CRIMINALLY". FOR WHICH, AFTER HIS PRISON TERM, HE WILL SERVE 2-5 YEARS PROBATION AND BE REQUIRED TO PAY OVER \$46,000 IN RESTITUTION.

FOR SOME, GRAFFITI IS AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE SEPARATION BETWEEN AN IMPERSONAL URBAN LANDSCAPE AND THE VIBRANCY OF LIFE. IT IS A VERY LITERAL ASSERTION OF THE VALUE OF CREATIVITY OVER THE SANCTITY OF PROPERTY, A VISUAL DECLARATION OF THE WILL TO LIVE.

GRAFFITI EXPOSES THIS CONFLICT AND THE CONFLICT EXPOSES THE WRITER. FOR WHEN THEY WRITE, THEY THRIVE IN A TRULY LIVED MOMENT: ONE WHERE JOY EXTENDS BEYOND ONES SELF AND CREATES AN HONEST EXPRESSION FOR US ALL TO REVEL IN. IT IS A DEPARTURE FROM THE SPECTACLE. A DEPARTURE FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF APPEARANCES THAT ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY ENTICING, DECEPTIVE, DISTRACTING AND SUPERFICIAL. A DEPARTURE FROM OUR DEAD WORLD.

THE SINCERITY, DEDICATION, AND HONESTY IN WRITING GRAFFITI CAN ONLY BE MET WITH THE UTMOST SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY. TO BREAK FREE FROM THE SEPARATION OF THIS WORLD, WE MUST MEET AND DRIVE HEAD ON INTO DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONSHIPS, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUPPORT FOR REBELS. WE MUST DESTROY THE SEPARATIONS BETWEEN US.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THIS, BOTH IAN AND DANNY ARE INMATES OF THE PA STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION. ALTHOUGH IAN AND DANNY LIVE IN THE SAME BUILDING, THEY ARE FORBIDDEN TO COMMUNICATE OR INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER. THERE ARE LITERALLY DOZENS OF WALLS, FELONY CHARGES, AND CO'S TO PREVENT THEIR COMMUNICATION. IAN IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED AT SCI PITTSBURGH AND DANNY IS HOUSED THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CORPORATION (A HALFWAY HOUSE).

DANNY IS EXPECTED TO BE PAROLED WITHIN THE COMING WEEKS.. IAN MAY SEE PAROLE IN 9 MONTHS TO 2 1/2 YEARS.



FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF JAILS AND IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THOSE WHO ATTACK THE SYSTEM.

FREEHERT.ORG

FREEMFONE.ORG

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS PITTSBURGH

LETTERS CAN BE MAILED TO:

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PITTSBURGH, PA 15224

PC-99

*Living
Through It*

*Suicide
Prevention*

*For
People in Prison*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

AS SURE AS I AM THAT WHAT WE NEED IS A REVOLUTION, I AM EQUALLY SURE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. PEOPLES MINDS ARE TOO BOMBARDED WITH INFORMATION TO SORT IT OUT AND FIND THE TRUE PROBLEMS - WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO FIGHT THEM IF WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE.

WE FIGHT AMONGST EACH OTHER

I THINK PEOPLE ARE FOCUSED ON THEIR INDEPENDENT REFORM, EVERYONE WANTS TO GET A BETTER JOB, WORK MORE, GET A NEW PHONE, WHITE TEETH, BETTER FRIENDS. EVERYONE WANTS TO FUCK BETTER - IT'S NOT EVEN A QUESTION OF LOVE OR PASSION SO MUCH AS TECHNIQUE. WE SEEK SUCCESS IN FINANCIAL SUSTENANCE. HOW COULD WE EVEN DREAM OF ACTUALLY DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER SOCIETY? WE FIGHT AMONGST EACH OTHER, WHILE OUR IDOLS AND OUR ENEMIES LIVE LIVES THAT TRANSCEND OURS IN EVERY WAY.

REBELS DON'T GET AN EDUCATION, THEY FALL VICTIM TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF POVERTY. THEY NEVER BLOSSOM INTO TRUE REVOLUTIONARIES. OUR INTELLECTUALS - I MEAN OUR YOUNG INTELLECTUALS THAT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME AWARE OF THIS ARE TOO PUSSY TO ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THIS LEAVES ME. I'M ANGRY AND I'M CERTAINLY READY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT - BUT A STRONG MAJORITY IS NEEDED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS. SO THAT'S IT - THE DEAD END - AND AFTER THAT, THEN WHAT? DO I JUST REFUSE TO COMMIT MYSELF TO THE

**I'M A SOCIAL
DEVIANT BY
NATURE**

SAME SHIT EVERYONE ELSE IS SUBJECT TO AND JUST GROW OLD AND STAGNANT WITH NOTHING BY MY SIDE EXCEPT MY IDEAS? AH, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO BE SOME SMELLY CRUST PUNK OR LAZY HIPPIE. I'M A SOCIAL DEVIANT BY NATURE, BUT I CAN SEE MY FUTURE LAID OUT FOR ME AND IT'S NOT RIGHT.

I WANT WHAT THE PEOPLE I HATE HAVE. I WISH SOMEONE WOULD JUST GIVE ME A MILLION DOLLARS NOW - I'D DEDICATE MYSELF TO CULTIVATING YOUNG PEOPLE READY TO FIGHT FOR TRUE SOCIAL REFORM. I'D TAKE A BUNCH OF BLACKS, BIG SCARY ONES AND PUT THEM IN SCHOOLS AND HAVE THEM READ MALCOM X AND HUEY NEWTON AND THEY'D IDOLIZE THEM INSTEAD OF SOULJA BOY AND WAYNE AND GUCCI AND WE'D TAKE BUILDINGS DOWN AND WHAT'S OURS.

I WISH I COULD DO ALL THIS BUT I CAN'T EVEN CONVINCE MY BOYS IN HERE TO QUIT FINDING REASONS TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.

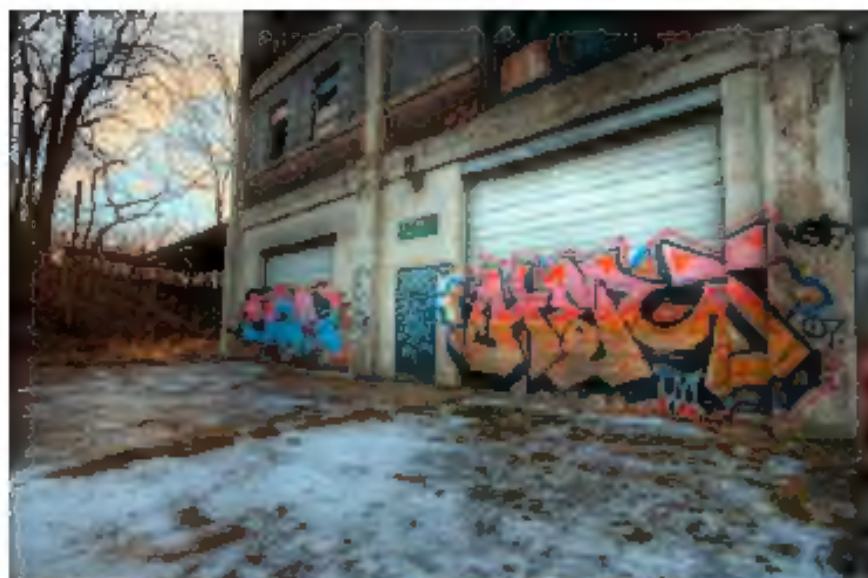
I TRIED TO TELL THEM, THIS IS WHERE RICH PEOPLE WANT THEM. I TRIED TO SHOW THEM THERE'S NO GLORY IN STABBING NIGGAS ANYWAY. BUT I'M A WHITE BOY SO WHAT DO I KNOW? SPIKE LEE TRIED TO TELL EM, BUT HE JUST SUPPLIED THEM WITH RELATABLE QUOTES AND SCENERIES OUR MAJORITY WILL PACK A THEATRE TO GAWK AT IN AWE.

AW, FUCK I HATE IT SO MUCH.

-IAN DEBEER

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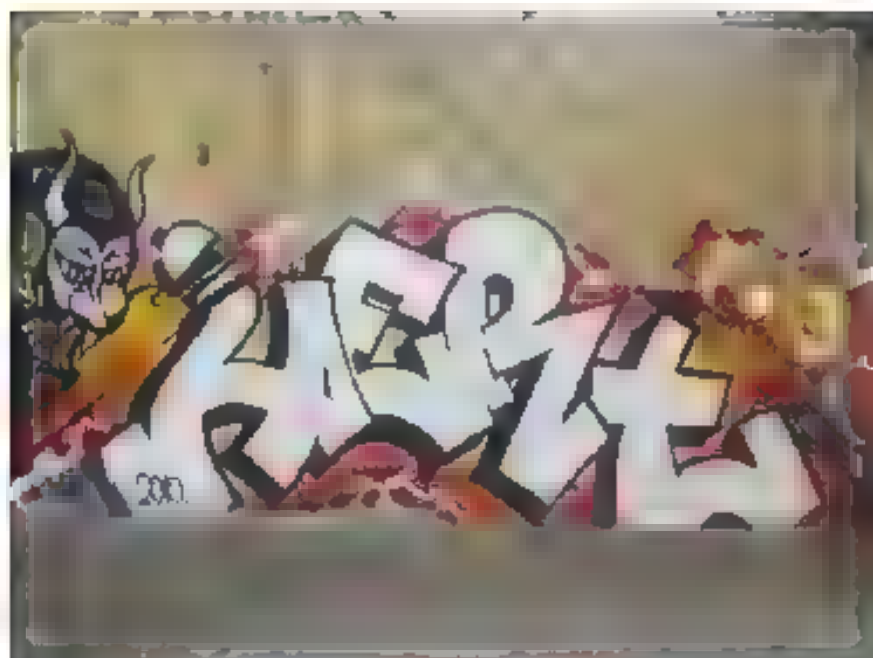








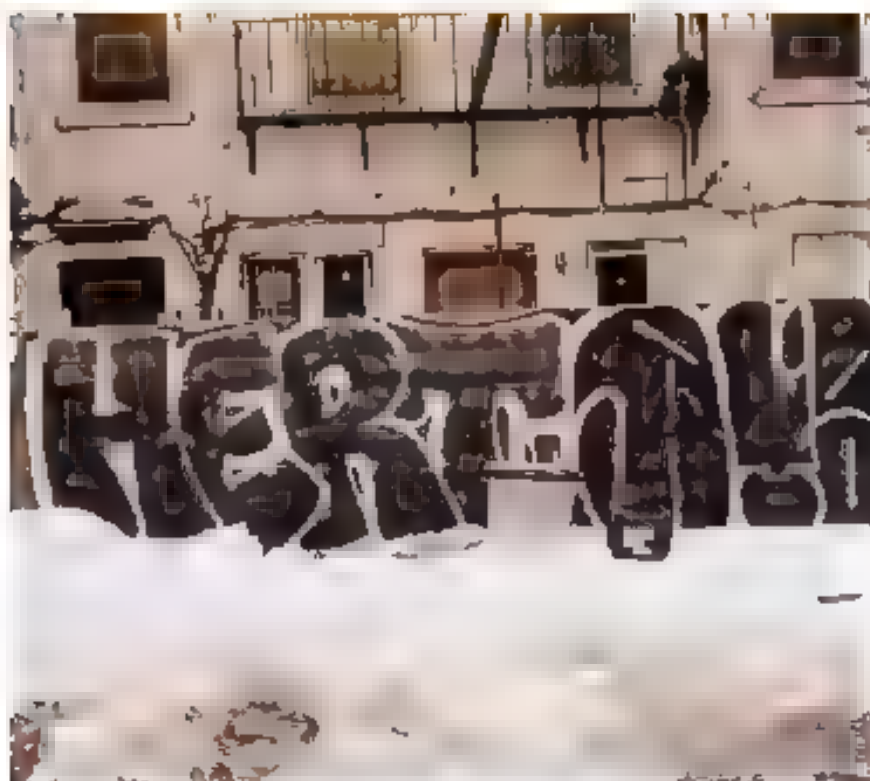


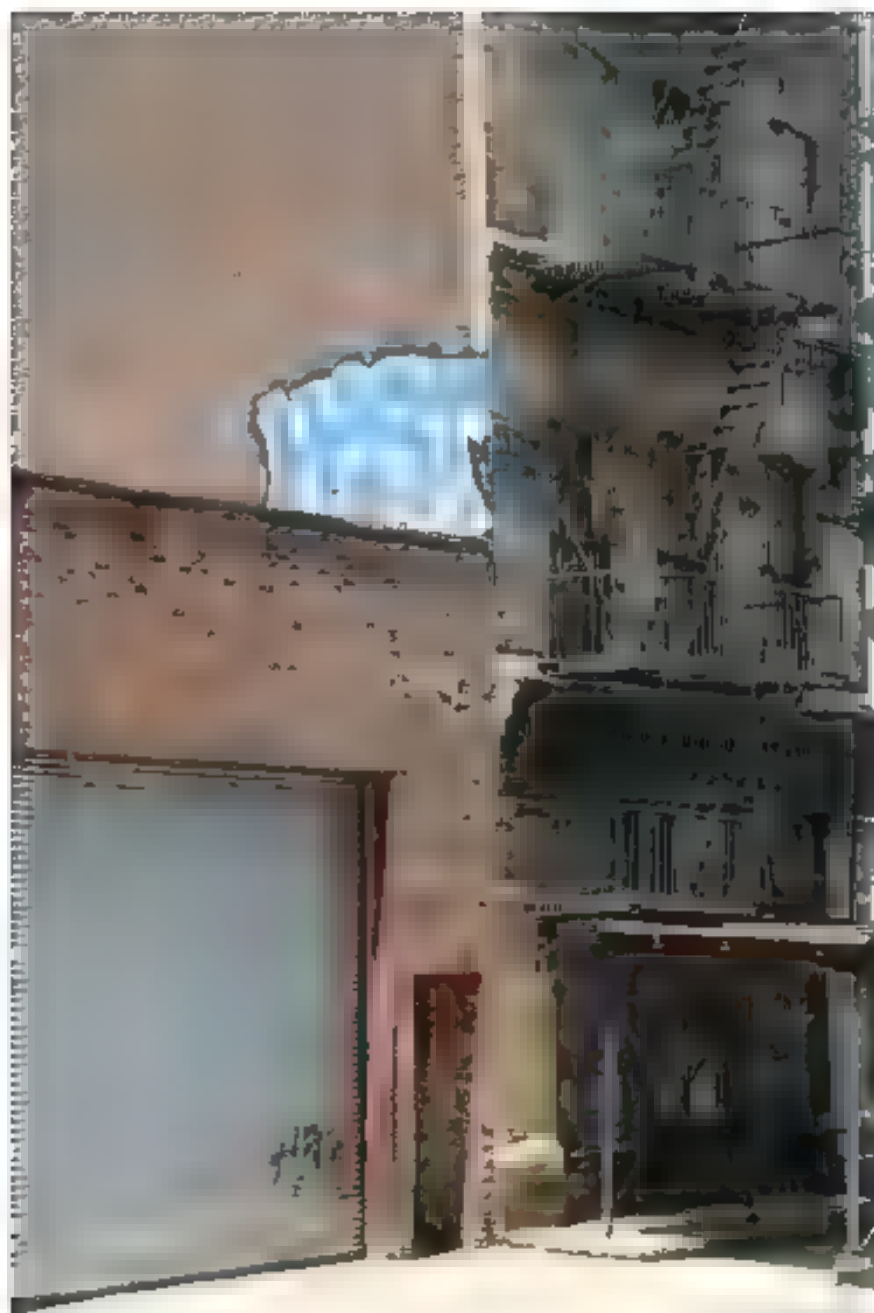






















BROWN EYES STAY FREE

WHEN I WAS 12 YEARS OLD I DECIDED TO BECOME AN ANARCHIST BY THAT AGE I HAD DEVELOPED OVERWHELMING FEELINGS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WORLD AND THE WAY I VIEWED LIFE. EVEN AT THAT YOUNG AGE I FOUND THAT, DESPITE THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF THE WORLD, IT WAS CONTROLLED AND DOMINATED BY POWERFUL AND CORRUPT FORCES. MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS THE IDEA OF MATERIALISM THAT FUELS THIS POWER. GREED, WAR, ELITISM, CLASSISM, RACISM, SEXISM, SLAVERY, OPPRESSION, INJUSTICE, AND POVERTY. THESE ARE ALL PART OF OUR WORLD TODAY. THE WORLD VIEW I POSSESS WOULD NOT INCLUDE SUCH EVILS AS IDEALS AND STANDARDS OF LIVING. I BELIEVE IN THE FREEDOM OF INFINITE POSSIBILITY, OF LOVE AND EQUALITY, OF BALANCE AND HARMONY. I BROKE AWAY FROM THESE THINGS THAT EXIST IN THE WORLD, I KNEW THAT I DID NOT WANT TO PLAY ANY PART IN THEM BUT I ALSO KNEW THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO STAND UP FOR THE IDEALS THAT I BELIEVED IN SO THAT HUMANITY COULD ENJOY A TRUE FREEDOM AND THAT THE EARTH'S TREASURES COULD BE SHARED EQUALLY. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT I WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE CURRENT STATE OF GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS. I FOLLOWED THE IDEA THAT IF ONE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN SOMETHING, HE SHE SIMPLY SHOULD NOT ADHERE TO IT. I WANTED TO DESTROY THE IDEA OF CAPITALISM AND PROPERTY. I DEVOTED MYSELF TO LIVING OUTSIDE OF THESE LAWS. BY THE TIME I WAS 16-17 I KNEW THAT I WOULD EVENTUALLY BE JAILED FOR MY ACTIONS BUT THIS WOULD NOT STOP ME. NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY MY IDEALS WERE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, NO MATTER HOW OUTNUMBERED I WAS IN THIS STRUGGLE, NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES, NO MATTER HOW MANY GUNS AND JAILS THEY HAVE I SHOULD FOLLOW MY BELIEFS REGARDLESS. THIS IS THE ATTITUDE I ADOPTED. IF I AM PART OF THE WORLD I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS SHAPING IT. I DISLIKE THE IDEA OF CONSIDERING WHAT I HAVE DONE AS ANTISOCIAL OR AS REBELLING AGAINST. ON THE CONTRARY I AM A PART OF

**"NO MATTER
HOW OUT-
NUMBERED...
I SHOULD
FOLLOW MY
BELIEFS."**

I AM A CONTRIBUTOR, AN IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE FORCE FOR SOCIAL REFORMATION. I DO NOT BELIEVE IN AN *US VS THEM* THERE IS ONLY US. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE POWER HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE

GRAFFITI, FOR ME, WAS ONE OF THE WAYS TO RESHAPE THE WORLD. IT WAS MY VOICE TO STAND UP AS AN INDIVIDUAL FOR MY OWN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, TO EXPRESS MY OWN PERSONAL IDEA OF FREE-

RESHAPE THE WORLD

DOM AND TO STAND IN DIRECT AND DELIBERATE OPPOSITION TO THE EXISTING SOCIAL NORMS, THE STATE. WHAT I DID WAS ABOUT HUMAN AND WORLD DEVELOPMENT. TO ME, IT PLACED IMPORTANCE ON THE SPIRIT THAT EXISTS IN ALL OF US OVER THE MATERIAL WORLD AND POSSESSIONS. IT WAS LIKE PUTTING WHAT WAS INSIDE OF ME ON THE OUTSIDE AND SAYING "PEOPLE MATTER. FUCK PROPERTY!" IT IS A SHAME THAT MY FRIEND LAN WAS PUT IN PRISON FOR COSMETIC PROPERTY DAMAGE WHEN THERE IS REAL SUFFERING GOING ON IN THE WORLD. WALLS DO NOT HAVE FEELINGS, WALLS DO NOT SUFFER, WALLS DO NOT STARVE, AND PAINT DOES NOT KILL PEOPLE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SOCIETY FREE OF MONEY, CAPITALISM, MATERIAL PROPERTY. A SOCIETY THAT IS FREE TO GOVERN ITSELF. BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-VIOLENCE AND EQUALITY



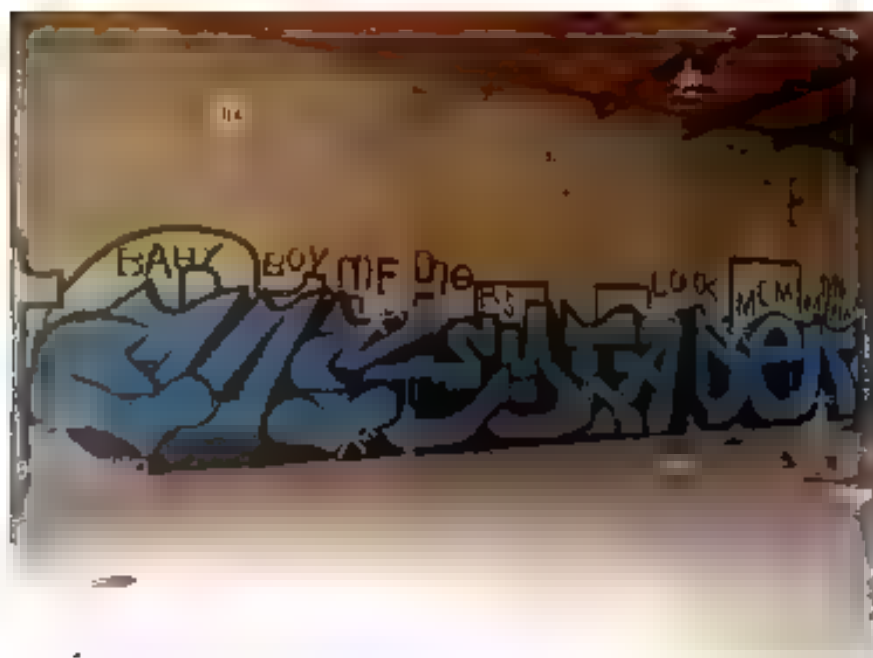
THE CRIMES FOR WHICH I AM CURRENTLY SERVING MY SENTENCE WERE IN NO WAY VIOLENT. TO ME THESE ACTIONS ARE A SYMBOL OF WHAT TRUE FREEDOM MEANS TO ME AND THEY REPRESENT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WHAT CURRENTLY EXISTS. SIMPLY, THEY REPRESENT CHANGE. IN THE STATE SYSTEM THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WHO ARE IMPRISONED SOLELY FOR THEIR BELIEFS AND THEIR OWN PERSONAL IDEAS OF MORALITY. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I WAS IMPRISONED FOR BEING ONE WHO STOOD UP AGAINST THE STATE, AND FOR MAKING IT CLEAR THAT I WILL NOT ABIDE BY A RULE I DO NOT BELIEVE IN. I REMAIN A VOICE THAT IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH LIBERATION, EQUALITY, PACIFISM, TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND ABOVE ALL ELSE LOVE.

FREE THE CREATIVE HANDS AND MINDS SUPPRESSED BY PRISONS.

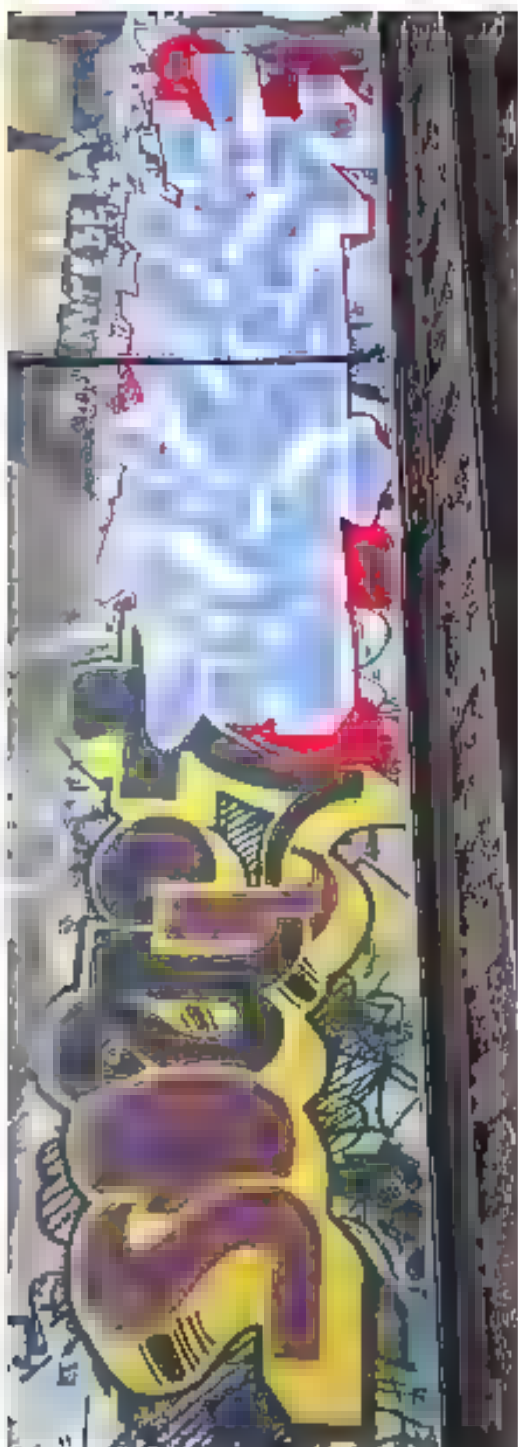
FREEDOM FOR ALL PEOPLE

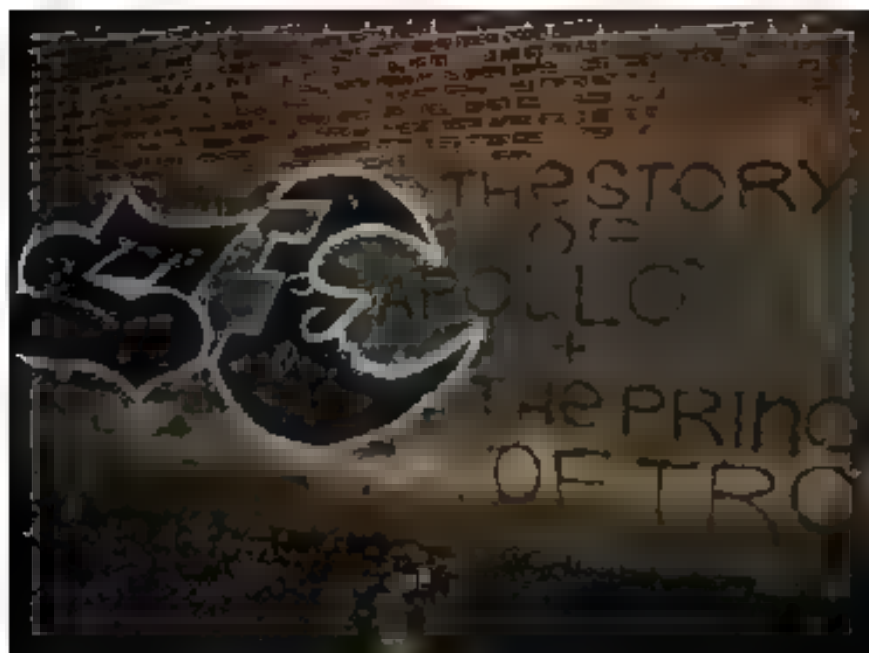
DANIEL JOSEPH MONTANO













PROLIFIC GRAFFITI VANDAL SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON

THURSDAY JULY 24, 2008 BY DIANA NELSON JONES, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

PROLIFIC GRAFFITI WRITER DANIEL MONTANO WAS SENTENCED TODAY TO 2 1/2 TO 5 YEARS IN A STATE PRISON, FIVE YEARS PROBATION, A RESTITUTION OF \$232,582 AND 2,500 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

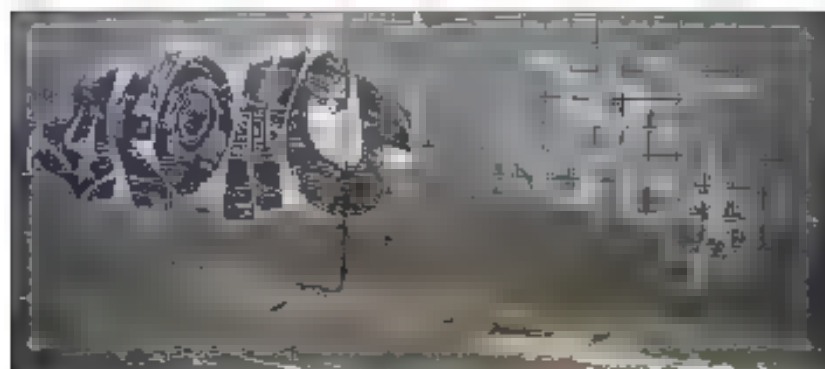
THE 22-YEAR-OLD HIGHLAND PARK RESIDENT AND A FORMER STUDENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE HAD A PREVIOUS CONVICTION AND TWO CASES PENDING LAST YEAR WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED AGAIN FOR THE VANDALISM OF 20 MORE PROPERTIES IN THE CITY. HE OFTEN USED THE TAG "MFONE" ON HIS WRITINGS.

HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY, WILLIAM CERONE, MADE THE ARGUMENT THAT ADDICTION TO NUMEROUS DRUGS SET A TALENTED, GOOD SON ON A DESTRUCTIVE COURSE AND THAT, AFTER SIX MONTHS OF INCARCERATION WHICH INCLUDED DRUG-AND-ALCOHOL TREATMENT "I SEE A DIFFERENT YOUNG MAN ON MY RIGHT THAN I DID SIX MONTHS AGO. GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP IT GOING."

MATTHEW ROBINOWITZ, ARGUING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH, SAID MR. MONTANO "HAS BEEN GIVEN CHANCES BEFORE. AFTER ARRESTS IN 2006 AND 2007, HE SAID, "WHEN HE GOT OUT, IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER. WHAT HE LEARNED WAS 'I CAN GET AWAY WITH IT,' SO HE EXTENDED HIS OPERATION. I THINK MR. MONTANO IS NOT GOING TO LEARN HIS LESSON. THIS IS AN ISSUE OF PUNISHMENT, REGARDLESS OF HIS TALENT."

ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUDGE KEVIN G. SASINOSKI CALLED IT "A VERY DIFFICULT CASE WITH A LOT OF UNIQUE ISSUES," INCLUDING THE FACT THAT BOTH HIS PARENTS AS WELL AS FAMILY FRIENDS SHOWED UP IN COURT TO SPEAK WELL OF THE DEFENDANT. HE DOUBTED THE DEFENSE'S CONTENTION THAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE WAS A CAUSE. "I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THE NEXUS BETWEEN DRUG ADDICTION AND VANDALISM. YOU APPEAR NOT TO HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR ANYONE ELSE'S PROPERTY."

ADDRESSING THE DEFENDANT, THE JUDGE SAID, "MR. MONTANO, GOOD LUCK TO YOU. YOU STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY YOUR DEBT TO SOCIETY."















I COULD NOT CONTAIN THE GREAT LOVE I HAD INSIDE MY HEART. SO I WENT AROUND THE CITY ON A BIKE TO WRITE ABOUT LOVE. I WROTE ON THE WALLS ALONG THE TRAIN TRACKS THE RIVERS AND THE BRIDGES. IN ABANDONED BUILDINGS AND ON FANCY STOREFRONTS IN THE BUSY SHOPPING AREA. TO EXPRESS MY LOVE FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD. TO REFLECT THE LIGHT OF THE SUN MOON AND STARS. TO HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE SIMPLE BEAUTY OF MY BELOVEDS FACE. TO PLACE VALUE ON FEELINGS OF THE HEART OVER THE MATERIAL WORLD. TO COVER THE BRICKS WITH PRECIOUS KISSES AND SORROWFUL TEARS SO THEY TOO COULD EXPERIENCE LOVE. TO WAKE UP THE SLEEPING PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WITH BOLD STATEMENTS OF LOVE. AND THE PEOPLE SAID THAT MY LOVE WAS PROLIFIC AND WOULD GO DOWN IN HISTORY. AND THEY DISPLAYED MY LOVE ALL OVER THE EVENING NEWS. AND WHEN THEY SHOWED THE POLICEMAN TAKING ME AWAY EVEN HE WOULD SAY THAT MY LOVE WAS PROFOUND. AND THE JUDGE SAID SO TOO AT MY TRIAL WHEN HE SENTENCED ME TO FIVE YEARS. BUT MY LOVE WAS SO STRONG THAT I TOOK IT WITH ME TO PRISON. MY LOVE WAS SO DETERMINED THAT IT WOULD NOT DIMINISH BUT ALWAYS GROW. SO IN MY CELL I WROTE ABOUT LOVE...I WROTE ABOUT LOVE AT ALL COSTS FOR IT IS THE NOBLEST CAUSE ON EARTH AND IS VALUED ACCORDINGLY BY GOD IN HEAVEN. SO I GOT ON MY KNEES AND PRAYED I WOULD PURIFY MY LOVE SO IT WOULDN'T CAUSE HARM. SO THE WORLD MAY RECEIVE IT. GOD ANSWERED MY PRAYERS WHEN A YOUNG GIRL SENT ME A LETTER IN PRISON: "I ENJOYED READING YOUR POETRY ALL OVER THE CITY WALLS. PLEASE WRITE THEM IN A BOOK SO THEY WILL LAST."

-DANIEL JOSEPH MONTANO

SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO:

Anarchist Black Cross
for the freedom of prisoners

